

## Soldiers of the Turkish Army.

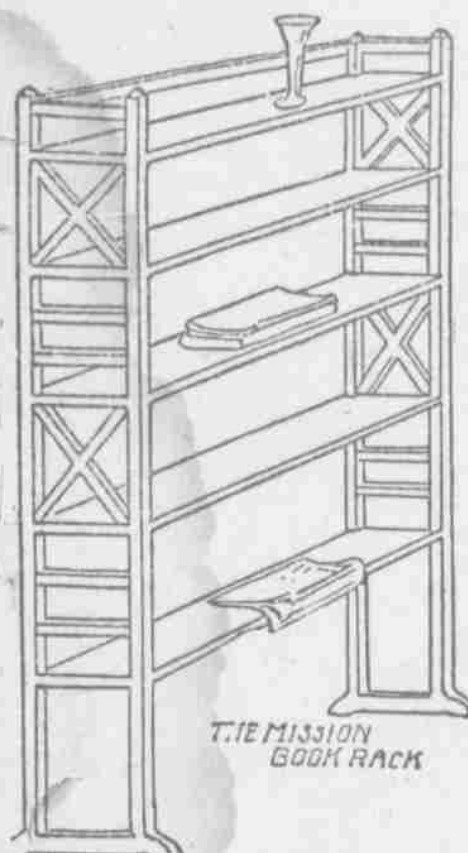


A GROUP OF THE ALBANIAN REGIMENT OF THE GUARD.

The fierce fighting men of the Turkish army who may be called on to defend the Sultan and his government against the Macedonian revolutionists, or foreign invaders, as the case may be, form a bulwark not easily overthrown. The Turkish soldier is a fatalist, and fights with an enthusiasm inspired by his belief that his reward in the future life will be all the greater for having died in defending the faith.

### Mission Bookrack

Though it fits right into a mission scheme of furnishing, there is nothing to prevent this mission bookrack from being utilized in any room where a



THE MISSION BOOK RACK

bookcase is suitable. If the room be done in mission style the wood should of course be of the same sort as other pieces of furniture, the beautiful tea brown being a general favorite. Such

pieces may, however, be stained in any color or to represent any wood. This one is characteristic of mission pieces, being solid and well designed generally. It may be used as it is or it may be fitted with a rod and hangings. All this must naturally be governed by the rest of the room.

### A Hidden Portrait



An important part is played by hidden pictures in politics, particularly in French politics. An example of such pictures is that shown above, the original of which was sent to the Philadelphia Record by Will Leigh, of La-haska, Pa. The head of Napoleon is formed by the leaves in the upper righthand corner of the bunch of violets.

### Oshkosh, the Menominee Chief For Whom Was Named a Prosperous Wisconsin City

Oshkosh was the name of a Menominee chieftain who had been very kind to the settlers, and who remained so to the day of his death. His grand-

son, Reginald Oshkosh, a graduate of the Carlisle School of Indians, was

present at the recent celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the town and delivered an address. The semi-centennial celebration and the agitation that has resulted from it have brought into existence a movement to remove the bones of Chief



Oshkosh from the Keshena Indian reservation, where they now lie, to the city that bears his name, and above them to erect a monument.

### THE WHITE ANTS OF SOUTH AFRICA

ADREN LOIR, in La Nature, Paris.

HERE are found in South Africa a considerable number of insects belonging to the termite family, but the most remarkable are those called white ants. Because of the destruction which they cause these insects are a real scourge to the country; they live in myriads in subterranean nests, and are one of the greatest obstacles to every form of agriculture. During the night these insects perform their destructive work, the greater part of the time being invisible and moving under the shelter of small tunnels which they construct on their way as they move forward. Not only do they attack vegetation of all sorts, but they also invade houses and even when the exterior of these appears sound they are often filled with ants which destroy wood and undermine masonry. The house may appear intact, but some day it is dis-



AN ANT'S NEST.

covered that the building is ready about to fall into dust. The rapidity with which the insects work may be judged when it is stated that a lawyer of Bulawayo found after an absence of a week that the insects had made occupancy of his house impossible. Eight days only had suffice for these destroyers to raise in the chimney a nest as high as a man. I have seen cases of wine from Europe, the corks of which had been entirely consumed by ants, leaving the bottles to waste their contents on the floor of the storeroom.

One frequently comes across these ants' nests, little hills erected at short distances from each other around a hill of earth fifteen feet in height, at the top of which is a gaping opening, the entrance to the nests. The nest itself is composed of galleries hollowed irregularly, all ending in a larger gallery, which may be considered the principal avenue of the city. This avenue leads to the deepest part of the nest, where we may find the residence of the queen. When sovereignty has been placed on the head of a queen, the workmen tear her wings off and place her in a cell proportioned to her size, with an adjoining cell for her mate.

As in our own climate, each one of these nests forms a small republic, containing a queen, royal guards, workers and other useful members of society. As thousands of eggs are laid each day in these nests, it is not difficult to understand the ever-increasing number of ants that inhabit them. These small but fearful enemies of man which live in the same neighborhood, and two ant nests never live man themselves have implacable enemies together in peace, even where they are inhabited by individuals closely related to each other from the standpoint of race. The most formidable enemies of the white ants, however, are the large black ants called Matabeles, because of their color, which is anal-

gous to that of the inhabitants of Matabeleland. The black ants are much larger than the white, and a legion of Matabeles is sufficient to throw an entire city of white ants into a state of absolute panic. Much more vigorous than the latter, armed with formidable mandibles, the invading black ants throw themselves on the poor frightened creatures of the white city, seizing as many as thirteen at a time, and carrying them quickly to their own hill. In this case the Matabele is not inspired by any bloodthirsty desire, for it does its captive no harm, being content to keep it in a condition of slavery. Much less diligent and intelligent than the little white ant, the black ant makes the former work for the black colony, the white ant laboring faithfully in the domain of its masters, constructing for them comfortable cells, taking care of their larvae, and digging tunnels which permit their captors to go from one place to the other sheltered from the wind and rain. Thus it is that frequently we find entire tribes of white ants living in the Matabele communities.

Large and small ants have one common enemy, the ant bear, which is very numerous in those regions where prey is abundant. There is absolutely no safety when one of these animals enters the nest, although this does not prevent the number of ants from increasing in enormous quantities, in places the nests of these insects occupying such an extent of territory that they form small villages, attacking everything, devouring everything, cutting the roots, destroying the leaves, hollowing and emptying the interior of branches and leaving only the bark, the whole tree falling into dust. At Bulawayo in the municipal park out of every fifty trees planted one only lives, and it is estimated that the damage in this town alone amounts to 250,000 francs per year.

### WHY DO PLANTS HAVE THORNS?

From an Article by Ferdinand Faideau, in La Science Illustrée, Paris—Condensed and Translated for Public Opinion.

The influence of the environment is very great in the formation of thorns, so great, in fact, that we frequently find that a plant in one place has thorns and a few miles away is devoid of them. Observation and experiment are in agreement in showing that three causes are in operation here, namely, impoverished soil, dryness of the atmosphere, and intensity of light, each of which provokes or accentuates the condition under discussion. In this connection it is interesting to state that cultivation diminishes the number of spines and in many instances makes them disappear after several generations.

M. Lhoteller has shown by a long series of experiments that thorny plants when submitted to the action of humidity tend to lose their spines, the reduction taking place in two ways. In the case of spines which are produced by modified leaves or modified stems, there is a tendency to revert to the primitive type, while in those which originate in stipules—an organ unnecessary to the life of the plant—the spine diminishes and in many cases completely disappears. The partial deprivation of light also produces a more or less complete suppression of the thorns, as proved by many authenticated instances.

It thus appears that thorns are the result of insufficient nutrition, but this answer by no means exhausts the subject, for the question arises, what is the use of the thorns, and how do they benefit the plant? Grindon claimed that the thorns have no use since they are found in a large number of families different both as to form and as to needs, but there can be but little doubt that the thorn is a means of protection to the plant and that its purpose is to inspire a



THORNS OF EGLANTINE, SLOE-TREE, AND GOOSEBERRY—E.M.S.

healthy respect in quadrupeds. The thorn protects the creatures which carry it, and where the case be that of a hedgehog or thistle, beast or bird, it allows its possessor to the more effectively defend itself. To pluck a bouquet of eglantines without tearing the clothes or wounding the fingers is an operation which requires consummate cleverness, and thus in numberless instances from the sloe-tree to the gooseberry we see that nature has made provision for these members of her family, so that they may defend the young leaves and tender buds so necessary to the continuance of their lives.

## The Funny Side of Life.

### THE LUCKY FARMER.

Oh, the man with a hoe,  
Told a story of woe,  
But in the procession of years,  
Some coupons he got,  
First a few, then a lot,  
And now he's the man with the shears.  
—Washington Star.

### RESIGNATION.

The Waiter—"How will you have your steak to-day?"  
The Crank—"Oh, I suppose burned, as usual."—Yonkers Statesman.

### SILENCING VON B.

Von Blumer—"I came near being taken for a deer in the Adirondacks."  
Mrs. Von Blumer—"That's singular, when you're such a bear at home."—Life.

### TO SHOW HIS CONTEMPT.

Towne—"Krankleigh doesn't believe in signs, does he?"  
Browne—"No, he's an extremist upon that point. I saw him yesterday leaning against a fence marked 'paint.'"—Philadelphia Press.

### WIDE AWAKE.

Fond Mother—"My darling, it is bedtime. All the little chickens have gone to bed."  
Little Philosopher—"Yes, mamma, and so has the old hen."—Woman's Home Companion.

### NEWS FROM HOME.

First Tourist (from South America)—"I got a letter from home. They have had two wars and a revolution since we left."  
Second Tourist—"Anybody hurt?"—New York Weekly.

### THE SORT OF A FELLOW HE IS.

Knippe—"What sort of a fellow is Johnson?"  
Tucque—"Oh, he is one of that kind of men who are always remarking, 'It looks as though we'd have a little rain before night.'"—Syracuse Herald.

### THE ENJOYABLE PART.

Mrs. Church—"Do you enjoy going to the theatre?"  
Mrs. Gotham—"No, I can't say that I do; the cars are so frightfully crowded, don't you know. But I always enjoy it after I get there."—Yonkers Statesman.

### MAKING THE MOST OF IT.

"I'd rather hear Miss Dinsmore play 'Hiawatha' than any one else," said Twynn.  
"I thought you were weary of that piece," replied Triplett.  
"I am, but she plays it so badly it sounds like something else."—Town Topics.

### THE LUCKY PHYSICIAN.

"Dr. Sharp is quite wealthy, isn't he? Did he make all his money from his practice?"  
"Not all of it. He's the principal owner of a very large oil well up the State."  
"Ah, he makes money from the sick and the well, too."—Philadelphia Press.

### CREDIT TOO GOOD.

Lawyer—"What was the thing that led to your financial downfall? You seemed to be doing a good business."  
Bankrupt—"I was. But one day I started out to see if I could borrow some money. I found it so easy that I kept on borrowing."—Somerville Journal.

### A HOPELESS CASE.

"A great, big, able bodied man like you ought to be ashamed to ask a stranger for money," said the well-to-do citizen.  
"I know I ought," answered Meandering Mike, "but, mister, I'm jes' naturally too kind hearted to tap 'im on the head and take it away from him."—Washington Star.

### SAD PART OF IT.

"What did you do with that fellow who stole the horse?" asked the tenderfoot.  
"Nothing much," answered Broncho Bill—"Ist took the boss away from him."  
"Is that all?"  
"Yep. He war settin' in 'em with a rope around his nape when we took 'em, though."—Indianapolis.

### JUSTIFY

"What are you so sure of?"  
"Isn't sincere?"  
"She says?"  
"Well?"  
"And I?"  
"Ber?"  
"Well?"  
"An?"  
"Ing?"  
"V?"  
"And?"  
"Ber?"